

Message Text

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TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL LUANDA

UNCLAS STATE 200067

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PDEV, PU, PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS STATEMENT ON U.S. RECOGNITION OF GUINEA-BISSAU

1. DEPT. SPOKESMAN, AT PRESS BRIEFING WEDNESDAY, READ FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON U.S. REACTION TO TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY IN GUINEA-BISSAU: (BEGIN TEXT)

PRESIDENT FORD SENT A LETTER TO LUIS DE ALMEIDA CABRAL, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE OF GUINEA-BISSAU, EXTENDING U.S. RECOGNITION AND OFFERING THE ESTABLISHMENT
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OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THE LETTER CONGRATULATES THE

PEOPLE OF GUINEA-BISSAU AND THE PORTUGUESE FOR THE CONSTRUCTIVE ROLES THEY PLAYED IN REACHING AGREEMENT AND EXPRESSES THE HOPE THAT THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND GUINEA-BISSAU WILL BE STRENGTHENED. THIS MESSAGE WAS DELIVERED ON SEPTEMBER 10 TO THE GUINEA-BISSAU AMBASSADOR IN CONAKRY, THE CAPITAL OF GUINEA, FOR TRANSMISSION TO HIS GOVERNMENT. (END TEXT)

2. FOLLOWING Q AND A, PREPARED FOR SPOKESMAN BUT NOT RPT NOT USED AT BRIEFING:

(BEGIN TEXT) Q. WILL U.S. ESTABLISH EMBASSY IN GUINEA-BISSAU?

A. PRESIDENT HAS OFFERED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GUINEA-BISSAU. IF THAT OFFER IS ACCEPTED, WE WILL THEN, IN CONSULTATION WITH GOVERNMENT OF GUINEA-BISSAU, MAKE DECISIONS AS TO SIZE AND LEVEL OF MISSION TO BE ESTABLISHED THERE. (END TEXT)

3. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM WEDNESDAY PRESS BRIEFING: (BEGIN TEXT) Q. HE WAS CONGRATULATING BOTH GUINEA-BISSAU AND PORTUGUESE?

A. YES.

Q. AND THIS CONGRATULATION WENT TO CABRAL? OR DID HE SEND THE LETTER DIRECTLY TO PORTUGUESE? THAT'S MY QUESTION.

A. NO. HE SENT THE LETTER TO PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL OF STATE OF GUINEA-BISSAU.

Q. I UNDERSTAND THAT. BUT WHY DOES HE CONGRATULATE PORTUGUESE IN LETTER ADDRESSED TO CABRAL? WHY DOESN'T HE WRITE DIRECTLY TO PORTUGUESE?

A. WELL, I DO NOT KNOW WHY HE DID NOT WRITE DIRECTLY TO PORTUGUESE. LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY: THAT PORTUGUESE ARE VERY MUCH AWARE OF OUR ATTITUDE.

Q. THAT'S TRUE, YES.

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A. TOWARD THESE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED.

Q. JUST A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO IT WAS STATED FROM THIS PLATFORM WHERE YOU'RE STANDING THAT GUINEA-BISSAU WAS NOT READY FOR SELF -GOVERNMENT. AT WHAT POINT DID ASSESSMENT CHANGE?

A. YOU CAN REFER TO PERSIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT MONTH AGO ON THIS WHEN NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND GUINEA-BISSAU. I WOULD SAY THAT WOULD BE A GOOD POINT IN TIME.

Q. BACK ON GUINEA-BISSAU FOR MOMENT, COULD YOU JUST CLARIFY, IN CASE I MISSED SOMETHING, THE CONGRATULATIONS ARE FOR WHAT?

A. FOR CONSTRUCTIVE ROLES THEY PLAYED IN REACHING AGREEMENT.
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